

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Wed May 31 13:31:33 1995
Message-Id: <Pine.SUN.3.91.950531082713.7194D-1000000@dialin.ind.net>
From: Bob Stafford <bstaffor@dialin.ind.net>
Subject: *** Crystals ***
Date: Wed, 31 May 1995 09:31:33 EDT

My brother (KB9JJJ) phoned and wanted to know where to order crystals. I told him I had a list of places and would mail it out to him. Well, guess what? I lost my list that was posted on qrp-1 some time back. Would some kind soul please email that list to me??? I would really appreciate such kind gesture. My brother would appreciate it too....

--- --. - --. --. - -. ----. --. ... --.
Bob Stafford - N9USD aka 'CircuitRider'
Teegarden, IN 46574
(219)784-3790 - MALE breast cancer is a reality -
** Email- bstaffor@dialin.ind.net **
--. --- --. ... --. --. .- --. . - --- -.--- --- --.

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Wed May 31 16:50:59 1995
Message-Id: <2a6.27075.500@acenet.com>
From: brian.carling@acenet.com (Brian Carling)
Subject: Re: 30M exchange
Date: Wed, 31 May 1995 12:50:59 EDT

From: brian.carling@acenet.com

BR>I am mostly struggling to get a decent antenna up!
BR>Spent hours with a slingshot yesterday and failed.
BR>The trees are too dense! When I finally got it over & could FIND
BR>the red rock, it broke the fishing line when I tried to pull it over.
BR>Then the elastic broke on my new Marksman slingshot! SO I was back to
BR>climbing trees and have a crummy single 42 foot wire off the end
BR>of the coax center wire with no counterpoise except the coax itself.
BR>Made 3-4 QSOs but conditions seemed terrible Sunday afternoon.

I am going to try this again.
BTW - I didn't mention that when I had buried the RG-58/U the weekend before this happened, my son had decided to mow the grass and chopped my coax to shreds on the part that was above ground (along the fence). Needless to say, it is now spliced and sealed and tacked along the side of the fence with insulating wire staples!
What a mess! I am going to try to get the G5RV up again this weekend.

Right now I am busy with an out of town family visitor, and the IDIOM PRESS keyer kit that arrived yesterday (very prompt service BTW) and finding that my eyesight is not what it was when soldering to traces that snake through between pads that are on 1/10" centers (arrrrgh!)... But as to the G5RV, I am going to go exchange the broken slingshot today or tomorrow, and then climb one of the lower trees and try to shoot the center support line up under the leafy limbs of this big tree and over one of the upper limbs closer to the trunk. Then I will haul up the center and do what I can with the outer supports.

As it stands right now, I don't think that the 46 foot random wire fed off the coax center wire at ground level is working very well. Too much loss with no counterpoise. Kind of an inverted L with about 15-18 feet vertical and the rest snaked through trees horizontal. Kinda poor antenna. I think my 128 foot end fed wire straight off the tuner did better!

72 de AF4K

SLMR 2.1a Bjorn of Borg : Jimmy Connors is irrelevant

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Wed May 31 18:49:00 1995
Message-Id: <199505311848.0AA54639@nss1.CC.Lehigh.EDU>
From: scalawag@ids.net
Subject: 30m prop study off with a bang?
Date: Wed, 31 May 1995 14:49:00 EDT

Hi gang,

30 meters looks great for opening night for the prop study.

Just a few moments ago (1830Z) heard Montana and Germany just a few minutes apart! Also the German beacon DK0WCY at 10145 KHZ is 469 here in RI and I think it is a low power, ordinary antenna setup. Give it a listen.

Good luck and see ya soon.

72/73 Lee

Vernon L. Rosson	Reward: lost dog
e-mail	3 legged, one eye,
LeeW5TEH@aol.com	mange, broken
or	tail, recently
SCALAWAG@ids.net	castrated. Answers

to the name, "Lucky."

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Wed May 31 20:01:16 1995
Message-Id: <Pine.3.89.9505311215.A29574-01000000@netcom18>
From: Alan Kaul <kaul@netcom.com>
Subject: 30M tonight (W Coast time)
Date: Wed, 31 May 1995 16:01:16 EDT

June 1st is racing our way. I'll be looking for a few Q's tonight on 30M, using my 6-digit Grid Square , plus ARRL section , plus QTH-city-state! Be there or be square!!

Good Luck to all, 73/72 de Alan

PS--My station::: SW-30 @ about 1.5W and rotatable dipole (actually, center element of A-3 Yagi <<only about 35 feet long>> at 42 feet. QTH: LaCanada-Flintridge, CA 91011 (4mi NW of Pasadena Rose Bowl).

[<Alan Kaul, W6RCL>] kaul@netcom.com

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Wed May 31 22:44:09 1995
Message-Id: <9504318019.AA801956883@mailrouter.alascom.com>
From: "Jim Larsen" <jlarsen@alascom.com>
Subject: Alaska at 0530Z
Date: Wed, 31 May 1995 18:44:09 EDT

I will be messin' around on 7.041 (have local qrn on 7.040) starting about 0530Z (9:30pm local) tonight (Wed)

I will be running 1 to 4 watts to a G5RV at 40 feet.

Hope to see one or two of you. I worked Seattle and California (2XQRP) last night.

73,

Jim Larsen
AL7FS
Anchorage, Alaska
jlarsen@alascom

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Wed May 31 19:47:12 1995
Message-Id: <9504318019.AA801946284@mailrouter.alascom.com>
From: "Jim Larsen" <jlarsen@alascom.com>
Subject: Alaska Report
Date: Wed, 31 May 1995 15:47:12 EDT

I always wondered if I could post without being subscribed. I will try it.

73,

Jim Larsen
AL7FS
Anchorage, Alaska
jlarsen@alascom.com

-----Forward Header-----
Author: To: adams@chuck.dallas.sgi.com at Internet-Mail
Subject: Alaska Report
05-31-95 08:16 AM

FYI

Worked 40 mtrs last night around 0600Z.

Seattle worked at 1 watt. He thought the band conditions were bad. Then I signed clear as QRP.

California worked at 4 watts - 2 way

Heard KH6 but he wasn't listening for small stuff.
Also 3 or 4 other California stations.

That is all.

73,

Jim Larsen

AL7FS
Anchorage, Alaska
jlarsen@alascam.com

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Wed May 31 15:25:58 1995
Message-Id: <950531112436.2029ceb5@carib.vf.mmc.com>
From: JEVERHART@cayman.vf.mmc.com
Subject: Belated Hootowl Sprint Report
Date: Wed, 31 May 1995 11:25:58 EDT

Gang,

I can't claim as a low a score as Doug KI6DS, but it's close. While Doug was working on his floor, my wife had higher aspirations for my efforts. She thought that the holiday weekend was a good time to put ceiling tile in the living room and kitchen. What am I gonna say - "no?"

I got in about an hour on 40 meters from 10 pm to 11 pm with electrical storms giving a high noise level - or was Sennid Sonaram at it again? Anyway I could only hear the strongest signals and managed on 4 Q's, N4ROA, KG0TW, K8NWD and from INET, WA8LCZ.

The band was really strange. Byron, LCZ, for example was 569 when I first heard him, but went into the noise by the time we made our exchange, never to rise above it again. In fact the other stations on frequency also suffered the same fate. Kinda like a VHF temperature inversion going away suddenly.

Oh yeah, the score. Call it 5 Q's x 5 points x 3 SPC x 7 pwr = 525 total.

BTW, I suffer another handicap. No one believes my low QRP ARCI number - 169. I get asked for lots of repeats on that!

72/73,

Joe E. N2CX

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Thu Jun 1 03:32:27 1995
Message-Id: <1995May31.232128.18311@wb3ffv.ampr.org>
From: Mike.Czuhajewski@hambbs.wb3ffv.ampr.org (Mike Czuhajewski)
Subject: Re Bowick RF book

Date: Wed, 31 May 1995 23:32:27 EDT

As requested, here is info on ordering the Bowick book. (That's the book I mentioned in passing in the review of the W7ZOI book in the April 95 QRP Quarterly.) The name is RF Circuit Design by Chris Bowick, priced at \$24.00 (plus whatever shipping/handling they charge), catalog # HS-1, and you order it from:

Crestone Engineering
5910 S. University Blvd
Bldg C-18 #360
Littleton, CO 80121
voice 303-770-4709
fax 303-721-1021

And according to the ad they take VISA, Master Card, and they even take American Express :-). This isn't the only place you can get the book, of course, but it's the only one I could find on short notice; I knew there was someone advertising regularly in RF Design magazine who carried it. (RF Design is a trade journal, and the editor is a ham...K9AY, Gary Breed.) I have no ties of any sort to Crestone Engineering, don't work for them, don't have any 401K money invested, etc.

73 and Queue Our Pea DE WA8MCQ

--

Mike Czuhajewski, user of the UniBoard System @ wb3ffv.ampr.org
E-Mail: Mike.Czuhajewski@hambbs.wb3ffv.ampr.org
The WB3FFV Amateur Radio BBS - Located in Baltimore, Maryland USA
Supporting the Amateur Radio Hobby, and TCP/IP InterNetworking

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Wed May 31 15:09:01 1995
Message-Id: <95053115030408@psuh02meteo.psu.edu>
From: penc@psuh02meteo.psu.edu
Subject: Digest improvements
Date: Wed, 31 May 1995 11:09:01 EDT

Gang:

I for one appreciate the return of the digest format. However, I see one possible improvement, although I have no idea how difficult it would be to implement.

At the beginning of each digest, the titles of each contribution are numbered. However, paging through the digest (which is sometimes a long process) I don't

see numbers at the beginning of each contribution.

It would be nice (at least to me) to have a number appear at the beginning of each contribution. I see a twofold purpose here. One, it would allow me to page quickly to those items of interest. Two, it would give me an idea of how many more messages I have to read before reaching the end. Sometimes I page through and the time consuming process leaves me delirious as to when I will reach the end (would be useful in deciding to continue, or resume later on).

Any feelings on this, or other personal thoughts ?

de Rich WK2A
penc@psumeteo.psu.edu

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Thu Jun 1 00:52:57 1995
Message-Id: <950531205037_18684291@aol.com>
From: Kirkekirk@aol.com
Subject: Re: Error Condition Re: Mail digest
Date: Wed, 31 May 1995 20:52:57 EDT

I don't quite understand your commands, but let me try again.
set qrp-1 mail digest

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Wed May 31 17:07:36 1995
Message-Id: <9505311508.AA05119@dtcs70.dtc.kodak.com>
From: mitchell@dtcs70.dtc.kodak.com (Brad Mitchel)
Subject: FD, RX idle current etc.
Date: Wed, 31 May 1995 13:07:36 EDT

Well, Another year has gone, and it's almost upon us.

N2JGU , Gary and I will be running homebrew equipment , as well as my Argosy 525. One point I noted however is that in receive the Argosy draws 500 ma. Wow, that's the same as the Scout if I recall correctly.

I seem to recall that in Doug Demaw's QRP notebook that certain solid state T/R switching circuits draw quite a bit of current, but I don't remember if that was idle or during xmit.. I think it was xmit. Anyway, with that stuff in mind, has anybody done the research to determine the current hogs in the Ten Tec equipment? A half an amp seems like a lot for receiving, especially without a digital display :-) ...

73 Brad WB8YGG

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Thu Jun 1 03:31:18 1995
Message-Id: <199506010330.UAA06778@mailhost.primenet.com>
From: bobhigh@primenet.com (Bob Hightower)
Subject: Field Day Query
Date: Wed, 31 May 1995 23:31:18 EDT

Not strictly QRP, but a question on Field Day. For how many years has this been going on?

Thx and 73, Bob KI7MN (bobhigh@primenet.com)

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Wed May 31 04:44:09 1995
From: Roger L Traylor <Roger_L_Traylor@ccm.jf.intel.com>
Subject: Gell Cell Charging
Message-Id: <95May31.004416edt.39696-1+136@fidoii.cc.lehigh.edu>
Date: Wed, 31 May 1995 00:44:09 EDT

Gang,

My family and I will be taking a 10 week trip across the US in our van and tent trailer. I will be taking my Sierra and dipoles for 40, 30, and 20m. I have a 7Ah gell cell battery to power the Sierra. I have a simple (but perhaps dumb) idea that maybe I could charge the gell cell via the cigarette lighter while we are driving. Since both batteries are lead-acid I could put the gell cell in parallel with the van battery and let the automobile charging system do the charging. To limit the charge current I would use a series resistor to limit the charge current to 500mA or so.

I seem to have heard somewhere that these batteries are sensitive to charging rate, terminal voltage and such. But the system seems so simple and attractive. Don't worry, I haven't tried it yet.

Any ideas, suggestions, warnings, funny stories?

Roger Traylor
wb4tpw

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Thu Jun 1 01:43:14 1995
Message-Id: <950531213738_83063055@aol.com>
From: JCoote@aol.com
Subject: Re: Gell Cell Charging
Date: Wed, 31 May 1995 21:43:14 EDT

I've charged a gel-cell direct from an Astron supply at about 14 v, as well as from my idling vehicle. The battery is a POWERSONIC PS-1242... 4.0 amp hour.

No expolsions, swelling battery or overheating (thus far!).

Once, I left an ammeter in series with the charging battery and things looked pretty normal... an inrush of current as I connected the battery to the power supply, and gradual tapering of the charge current as the battery charged up. You might try some current measurements and see if the limit resistor is required.

I have also seen small lamps used as current limit resistors. I think the resistance changed with heat.. or some other good reason they used lamps in a charger. I think this was in a QST a few years ago?

Try with and without the current limiting.

72, Jay WB6AAM

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Wed May 31 16:31:00 1995
Message-Id: <95May31.122939edt.14522-2+140@hooch.CC.Lehigh.EDU>
From: Jim Eshleman <lujce@hooch.CC.Lehigh.EDU>
Subject: MultiMeter advice
Date: Wed, 31 May 1995 12:31:00 EDT

Gang,

Anticipating building a kit rig, need some advice on purchasing a MultiMeter. My 20+ year-old Radio Shack VOM has seen better days, and I'd like to upgrade to something that will allow me to align TX and RX. Of course it has to be As Cheap As Possible :-). Found the following in the Specialized Products Co. catalog for \$119.95 plus \$12.00 for the carrying case. Anyone have any other recommendations, or know where to purchase this unit cheaper? Comments please!

Wavetek DM27XT DMM:

200mV-750V AC in 4 ranges
200mV-1kV DC in 5 ranges
200uA-20A AC/DC in 5 ranges
2nF-2kuF in 7 ranges
200ohm-2000Mohm in 7 ranges
frequency counter up to 20MHz
five inductance ranges (looks like 2m,20m,200m,2,20)
1999-count, 3.5-digit LCD display

/jim

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Wed May 31 12:20:27 1995
Message-Id: <Pine.SUN.3.91.950531051154.22445A-100000@crl8.crl.com>
From: H Smith <hbs@crl.com>
Subject: NORTEX QRP
Date: Wed, 31 May 1995 08:20:27 EDT

The North Texas QRP Bunch, NORTEX meets every 1st Saturday of the month at 10 AM. The meetings are held at Chuck Adams' (K5F0) place of business in Addison, TX.

Directions to the meeting are:

First floor of the building on the southeast corner of Arapaho and Addison Rd. It's one block north of Beltline. Quorum Centre is the name of the building - three stories glass and brick.

Come into the main entrance and follow the signs to the SGI Training room.

At this meeting we will be discussing our Field Day Plans.

CU There,

Smitty, NA5K

Henry Smith (hbs@crl.com)

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Wed May 31 19:08:16 1995
Message-Id: <9504318019.AA801947160@CCGATE.HAC.COM>
From: ssalgaller@ccgate.hac.com
Subject: qrp kits on internet
Date: Wed, 31 May 1995 15:08:16 EDT

Halted Electronics has two qrp kits, and a qrp watmeter kit available. Further, they can send out catalog info automatically on internet. Send a message to:
HSC-server@hsc.cue.com
In the TEXT (not header) write
SUBSCRIBE HSCmail <full name>
You will then get info about their kits and monthly specials. You can also call them at (800) 4-HALTED.
Their retail store is in the San Jose area; stop by if you are ever in the Bay area.
Stephen S.
WA3ZGT

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Wed May 31 22:21:57 1995
Message-Id: <950531182040_18577671@aol.com>
From: Byron8LCZ@aol.com
Subject: QRP Plus by Index Labs
Date: Wed, 31 May 1995 18:21:57 EDT

Hi Bob,

Yes, you could have bought 4 to 6 rigs for 600 dollars, but you'd still only be on 4 to 6 bands and cw only. With the Plus, you're on 9 bands, cw and ssb, with 2 vfo's/Split operation, LCD digital readout, built in SCAF audio filter, unlimited RIT and lots of other extras, in "one" fairly small enclosure. Plus its a 5 watt rig, not 1.5 watts.

Believe me, its worth the wait and its the best bargain in multiband QRP radios you'll see for a long long time.

I paid full price, 600 dollars and waited four months for my Plus and I'd do it again.

BTW, I've been waiting on a MFJ QRP antenna tuner for two months, so Index Labs isnt the only company with delivery problems.

72, Byron WA8LCZ Detroit Byron8LCZ@aol.com

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Wed May 31 21:51:27 1995
Message-Id: <950531174947_82622818@aol.com>
From: BobAL7EV@aol.com
Subject: QRP+
Date: Wed, 31 May 1995 17:51:27 EDT

Plans have changed and I wonder if anyone on the list would like to take over my place on the QRP+ group order. IF the rig has already been shipped I will forward without opening the package.

Please let me know via e-mail or call book address.

73,
Bob, AL7EV

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Thu Jun 1 03:06:10 1995
Message-Id: <950531225101_18778672@aol.com>
From: BobAL7EV@aol.com
Subject: QRP+
Date: Wed, 31 May 1995 23:06:10 EDT

Wow! That was fast! The QRP+ is already gone, and there's someone waiting "just in case".

73,
Bob, AL7EV

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Thu Jun 1 04:39:53 1995
Message-Id: <Pine.3.89.9505312157.A2858-01000000@dt1.datatamers.com>
From: "David D. Meacham" <ddm@datatamers.com>
Subject: Re: Re Bowick RF book
Date: Thu, 1 Jun 1995 00:39:53 EDT

Mike & ALL,
Just a comment: As an RF Engineer I can attest to the fact that this is an excellent book. 72, Dave, W6EMD

On Wed, 31 May 1995, Mike Czuhajewski wrote:

> As requested, here is info on ordering the Bowick book. (That's the
> book I mentioned in passing in the review of the W7Z0I book in the
> April 95 QRP Quarterly.) The name is RF Circuit Design by Chris
> Bowick, priced at \$24.00 (plus whatever shipping/handling they charge),
> catalog # HS-1, and you order it from:
>
> Crestone Engineering
> 5910 S. University Blvd
> Bldg C-18 #360
> Littleton, CO 80121
> voice 303-770-4709
> fax 303-721-1021
>
> And according to the ad they take VISA, Master Card, and they even take
> American Express :-). This isn't the only place you can get the book,
> of course, but it's the only one I could find on short notice; I knew
> there was someone advertising regularly in RF Design magazine who
> carried it. (RF Design is a trade journal, and the editor is a
> ham...K9AY, Gary Breed.) I have no ties of any sort to Crestone
> Engineering, don't work for them, don't have any 401K money invested,
> etc.
>
> 73 and Queue Our Pea DE WA8MCQ
> --
> Mike Czuhajewski, user of the UniBoard System @ wb3ffv.ampr.org
> E-Mail: Mike.Czuhajewski@hambbs.wb3ffv.ampr.org
> The WB3FFV Amateur Radio BBS - Located in Baltimore, Maryland USA
> Supporting the Amateur Radio Hobby, and TCP/IP InterNetworking
>
>

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Wed May 31 13:13:36 1995
Message-Id: <Pine.3.89.9505310832.A543573070-01000000@utkvx.utk.edu>
From: cebik@UTKVVX.UTCC.UTK.EDU
Subject: Re: RST
Date: Wed, 31 May 1995 09:13:36 EDT

Here are a couple of further notes as historical background to my
comments concerning RST as a standard.

In the 1930 ARRL Handbook, there is no mention of RST. Rather, the
standard log page shows reference to QSA (Strength of signals on a scale
of 1 to 5) and tone, given as a set of remarks (pp. 195-96).

The 1937 ARRL Handbook (the next in my collection) reports (p. 323) that
the basic version of the modern (?) RST system was proposed in 1934 by

W2BSR. The original system used a 559 scale to preserve the QSA range. T was very detailed, since the achievement of a "Purest d.c. note" was a function of many factors, including poor or nonexistent power supply filtration and what was then known as musical modulation and whistle.

"Some time later," W2BSR made a second proposal to expand the strength scale to 1 to 9 to accomodate finer gradations of perceived signal strength. In 1937, an RST followed by X for the appearance of crystal control (for frequency stability) already existed, but no mention of K for key clicks is given. To receive a report, one sent "RST?" or "QRK?" This was an evolving standard and reports were not yet sent by everyone as part of the first exchange. The Handbook refers to the RST system as "the present standard recommended for your use." (p. 323)

Between 1937 and 1995, the meanings of the 5 R-numbers and the 9 S-numbers has not changed. However, the T-scale has been altered in wording to reflect changing problems in achieving pure CW. Then, T represented what the ham constructor had achieved; now it largely indicates a malfunction of some stage in a transmitter. T-6 now means "Filtered tone, definite trace of ripple modulation." In 1937, it was interpreted as "Modulated note, slight trace of whistle."

I hope this adds something to my notes on RST as a standard. Perhaps R is not to be changed, since it represents a measure of readability to the receiving operator. Is S a strict measure, a relative measure, or a subjective measure? What can it be as a standard for the next century? Does T need revision, omission, or mention only when the note is other than purest d.c.? Perhaps QRP operators are in the best position to contribute to a revised standard applicable to them or to everyone since they work at power levels where the report is most meaningful.

Whatever may transpire, I recommend that we use the system in hand with the other operator in mind for the transferral of the most precise information permitted by the standard. We can always add notes in our own logs for impressions of the band conditions, etc. But as the 1937 notes, the RST system is a complete and efficient report in its own right to the other operator.

-73-
LB, W4RNL

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Wed May 31 12:03:17 1995
Message-Id: <Pine.3.89.9505310757.A17497-0100000@saturn.acs.oakland.edu>
From: prvalko <prvalko@oakland.edu>

Subject: Re: RST and pet peeves
Date: Wed, 31 May 1995 08:03:17 EDT

On Tue, 30 May 1995, Clark Savage Turner WA3JPG wrote:

> Darned if 90 per cent of ops
> use their "S" meters to give the "S" report....and this results
> in "5 by 0" reports and other silly things. How the heck do
> we do any better with this :-) .

It could be (and frequently is) worse... Overheard on the local repeater...

"The repeater's hitting me with an eight pounder."

and of course the classic repeater line...

"You are full scale, but I hear some noise on you."

73! =paul= wb8zjl

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Wed May 31 12:11:20 1995
Message-Id: <Pine.3.89.9505310715.A543573070-0100000@utkvx.utk.edu>
From: cebik@UTKVX.UTCC.UTK.EDU
Subject: Re: RST and pet peeves
Date: Wed, 31 May 1995 08:11:20 EDT

On Tue, 30 May 1995, Clark Savage Turner WA3JPG wrote:

> True, but S meters were not invented when the RST system was put
> into place, I believe, which is probably why the problem. Then
> again, they were called "S meters" :-) .
> Clark, WA3JPG

Clark,

You are correct that the S-meter name was derived from the S in RST. Most were and are still a derivative function of AGC and thus cannot exactly parallel the RST system. Between S1 and S9, a well calibrated meter can provide a reasonable indication of signal strength that parallels the original system. S9+40 is sort of a meaningless extra in conversation relative to the system, extraneous precision for the term extremely strong signal on an electronic system that has been shown time and time again to be quite imprecise--almost the SSB equivalent of Dave's World talk.

The only way for the meter to be precise at the low end is to have S1 as the left needle rest marking. Then, you give S1 if you can hear the non-needle mover and give nothing if you cannot hear them. Then, if S1=a certain number of microvolts of signal strength, the needle does not move until there is that number +1 (or +.001, etc.). Everything else that is lower is still S1. Or it is silence, since a person cannot give a report to a station he does not hear (nets and contests not included). This would make the meter again track the rSt system as it is given as a standard.

If something different is required to make the system parallel the action of meters, then we need a new standard. NOT a large collection of individual interpretations and inventions, but a standard agreed upon and promulgated to everyone for standard use, in essence, an ITU standard paralleling all those used in physics and electronics that have been agreed upon by recognized bodies representative of all users.

Until such a standard exists, the current standard places the rSt system ahead of meter readings and it runs from 1 to 9. Those who insist upon putting their own revisions into practice--however widespread--only create confusion--like inventing a new set of meanings for voltage, current, and resistance such that $E=2IR$: quite possible, but confusing to casual readers.

Now, if good QRP practice requires a new standard for RST, then let there be a deliberative body representative of all the QRP organizations, and let this body study the problem, receive input from all interested operators, consider all the aspects of the problem, and develop a new standard. Further, let all QRP organizations making studies, issuing awards, and publishing operating accomplishments formally adopt the new standard and insist that all data input to them be in accord with the new standard. Deviant input must be rejected or revised to meet the new standard.

Until then, the de facto standard is that which appears in handbooks and which takes precedence over meters. Until we go through the process of creating a better standard, we can either report in accord with the standard to the best of our operating skill or we can be deviant (or "cool"). If the latter, we owe it to other QRP operators to let them know which we are doing. If the former, then we are committed to using meters as an aid to reporting signal strength, but not as the standard itself. Should anyone report my signal as S0, I shall stop transmitting, since that is--by the standard--evidence of non-contact, and except for CQ and QST (no, not the magazines), non-contact transmissions except for brief tests and known beacons are not regulatorily approved. If someone gives me an S9+anything, then that is only a cue to reduce power. Only the S9 goes in the logbook/disk. And, of course, virtually all BIG contest reports and dx pile-up reports are meaningless. But that does not say that QRP operators must adopt the meaningless. They can still adhere to the operative standard for maximum information transferral

until such time as a better standard is adopted--if there is one.

Anyone care to lead the effort to form an international body to study the question and develop a new standard for the 21st century?

-73-

LB, W4RNL

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Wed May 31 12:16:24 1995
Message-Id: <Pine.3.89.9505310852.B17497-01000000@saturn.acs.oakland.edu>
From: prvalko <prvalko@oakland.edu>
Subject: Re: RST and pet peeves
Date: Wed, 31 May 1995 08:16:24 EDT

On Tue, 30 May 1995, Dana Myers wrote:

>
> Um, if the "S" in the RST is supposed to communicate the
> signal strength in S units, what am I supposed to use? Some
> made up number? Isn't the "R" in RST my subjective evaluation
> of the signal? What *should* the S indicate?

The "S" means "relative" signal strength. A "9" being incredibly strong, loud, etc... and anything less than a "3" being uncopiable (for all practical intent). An S=0 report indicates that the ham on the other end is either freshly licensed and has never read an operating manual or did not have a very good elmer.

> I will admit that most S meters are inaccurate, but that
> is another issue. Ideally, all S meters would be calibrated so
> that S9 == 50uV and each unit was 6dB.

I can't remember exactly but I think Ten Tec specs required 50mv to give an S9 on 14.000. But what shall us unwashed heathen QRP ops do when our homebrew rigs don't even HAVE an S-meter? It's all relative so take it with a grain of salt.

73! =paul= wb8zjl

"You are five by nine, five by nine, five by nine, please repeat your section, your section your section."

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Wed May 31 12:56:07 1995
Message-Id: <9505311255.AA13230@rgfn.epcc.Edu>
From: af852@rgfn.epcc.Edu (William R Colbert)
Subject: Re: RST and pet peeves
Date: Wed, 31 May 1995 08:56:07 EDT

LB, I agree with you. Of course we could go back to QSA, QRK, QSD, etc. Remember when the first meters on the receivers were "R" meters and stopped (at the peg) at 9? Interesting discussion. 72/73. Ray, W5XE. af852@rgfn.epcc.Edu

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Wed May 31 13:28:16 1995
Message-Id: <950531092701.2029ceb5@carib.vf.mmc.com>
From: JEVERHART@cayman.vf.mmc.com
Subject: Re: RST and pet peeves
Date: Wed, 31 May 1995 09:28:16 EDT

Paul Valko wrote, in part:

> It could be (and frequently is) worse... Overheard on the local repeater...
> "The repeater's hitting me with an eight pounder."
> and of course the classic repeater line...
> "You are full scale, but I hear some noise on you."
> 73! =paul= wb8zjl

I love the oft-repeated (pun intended) lines:

"You are about 50% (or 80%, or 90%) quieting."

I'd love to calibrate my ear that way!

And

"You're weak into the repeater so speak louder."

The when the party does speak louder, he overdeviates and causes the repeater squelch to chop him up, making him sound even weaker.

Of course the classic contest exchange is:

" QSL UR 599 SNJ 1234 PSE RPT"

What the heck does the QSL mean? And the 599 is meaningless.

Of course we QRP'ers never fall into those traps.....

72/73,

Joe E. N2CX

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Wed May 31 13:52:30 1995
Message-Id: <Pine.3.89.9505310950.B20723-01000000@saturn.acs.oakland.edu>
From: prvalko <prvalko@oakland.edu>
Subject: Re: RST and pet peeves
Date: Wed, 31 May 1995 09:52:30 EDT

On Wed, 31 May 1995, William R Colbert wrote:

> Remember when the first meters on the receivers were "R" meters
> and stopped (at the peg) at 9? Interesting discussion. 72/73. Ray,
> W5XE. af852@rgfn.epcc.Edu
>

No we don't, Pops. How about sharing some of that ol' time spark technology with us newbies?

73! =paul= wb8zjl

Grinning ear to ear

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Wed May 31 20:58:41 1995
Message-Id: <Pine.3.89.9505311306.A15858-01000000@netcom19>
From: patrick cook <kb0oxd@netcom.com>
Subject: Re: RST and pet peeves

Date: Wed, 31 May 1995 16:58:41 EDT

Hi Gang:

On Wed, 31 May 1995 JEVERHART@cayman.vf.mmc.com wrote:

> Paul Valko wrote, in part:

> > "The repeater's hitting me with an eight pounder."

Eight pounds of WHAT????? RF meat???? :-)

> > and of course the classic repeater line...

>

> > "You are full scale, but I hear some noise on you."

I'm afraid this is one that even *I* plead guilty to...

> I love the oft-repeated (pun intended) lines:

>

> "You are about 50% (or 80%, or 90%) quieting."

I also plead guilty to this, too....

> I'd love to calibrate my ear that way!

Me, too!

> And

>

> "You're weak into the repeater so speak louder."

>

> The when the party does speak louder, he overdeviates and causes the repeater
> squelch to chop him up, making him sound even weaker.

And let's not forget those who turn their mike deviation so high (or it's set that way by the factory) that it makes them sound like they're either at a baseball game with a bunch of cheering, screaming fans, or at the Indianapolis 500!!!! That's just as bad when the surrounding noise is LOUDER than the operator HIM or HERSELF (typically the former, and not necessarily the latter).

There's my 2 cents worth. 73's for now, my friends!

DE KB00XD

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Thu Jun 1 02:01:18 1995
Message-Id: <Pine.3.89.9505311837.A27640-0100000@netcom15>
From: patrick cook <kb0oxd@netcom.com>
Subject: Trade: WWW page for xtal scanners/CB radios (fwd)
Date: Wed, 31 May 1995 22:01:18 EDT

Hi Gang:

I realize that the scanners are askew from the topic of the listserver, but what this guy wants in return, IMHO, would be best served by this listserver.

Many humble apologies for the bandwidth that this message is taking!

73's for now, my friends!

DE KB00XD

----- Forwarded message -----
Date: Thu, 1 Jun 1995 18:49:06 -0300
From: Rob Bellville <bellvill@BELLVILLE.ULTRANET.COM>
To: Multiple recipients of list SCAN-L
<SCAN-L%UAFSYSB.BITNET@uga.cc.uga.edu>
Subject: Trade: WWW page for xtal scanners/CB radios

Howdy! This may be a little askew of the topic but it IS radio-related. :-)

I am looking for donations of crystal scanners and CB radios (DEAD or ALIVE) for neighborhood crime watch groups. I am gathering, repairing, and setting up these otherwise unused radios so that they can again fulfill a useful function.

As an incentive, I am offering to create a World Wide Web page for anyone who donates equipment to the cause. I will place it at my site and register you in the search databases so that others can find you. If you do not have an Internet provider that handles WWW pages this is an easy way for you to get your own piece of the Web.

All I ask is that the total size of the page is 75k bytes or less and you supply any text, images, links, etc. that you'd like on the page. Feel free to email me if you're not familiar with any of this.

What can you put on a Web page?

- your favorite scanner freqs, links, or other stuff!
- your resume if you're job hunting
- something serious or humorous (or both)

- limited only by your imagination.

Please feel free to email me if you have any questions. I even need parts radios since I have many repairs to do. Microphones, crystals, external speakers, antennas, etc. are all welcomed donations. THANKS!

~ Rob ~

<http://www.ultranet.com/~bellvill/>>Rob's cobWeb Page

Rob Bellville, N1NTE | <bellvill@bellville.ultranet.com>
PO Box 515 | Got an old PC or Mac? Millbury Schools
Millbury, MA 01527 | are looking for donations dead or alive!

Technical Supervisor, Millbury Public Schools
Computer Technology and Radio Communications Consultant
*** World Wide Web Creation Services - Business and Individual ***

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Wed May 31 14:08:23 1995
Message-Id: <9505311402.AA28822@collie.aud.alcatel.com>
From: msdooley@collie.aud.alcatel.com (Michael S. Dooley)
Subject: RE: unbalanced feedline
Date: Wed, 31 May 1995 10:08:23 EDT

Jim,

A good response with more info. I like it and no flame is intended in the following dialogue. I would appreciate an answer since I'm certainly no expert here.

I have one question that you may be able to answer. During the episode related in my previous posting I also noticed my printer would do funny things. Like printing characters when it shouldn't be.

I noticed that this only occurred when I was adjusting the tuner to match the antenna to the radio. Once the tuner was adjusted, the problem would go away. If the tuner was ungrounded, the problem was exceedingly worse than when the tuner was grounded.

Tieing everything together with a common ground, then to my new 8 foot ground rod (properly inserted in the earth of course P-)), helped cured the problem of induced RF causing other electronic equipment in the shack to go nuts.

The question: Why does it appear that the induced RF is worse when the tuner is not providing a good match between the antenna and the radio?

Mike KE4PC

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Wed May 31 14:42:39 1995
Message-Id: <199505311441.KAA26439@oucsace.cs.ohiou.edu>
From: William McFadden <wmcfadde@oucsace.cs.ohiou.edu>
Subject: Want back issue of QRP Quarterly
Date: Wed, 31 May 1995 10:42:39 EDT

Greetings fellow QRPers.

Field Days is fast approaching, and I've managed to convince the local general-purpose radio club that this year a QRP-solar effort is the way to go. (It took some selling, too!) As a point of interest, we'll be running a TenTec Argonaut 515, both on phone and CW. The antenna is, at this point, not entirely decided upon. (My HW-8 will be the backup rig; I'm hoping it won't be called upon to save the day, as the DC receiver is probably not the hot ticket for Field Day!)

Anyway, I've learned, from looking at the QRP Quarterly Index which was recently posted here, that the April 1987 issue had several articles which might be useful to me in planning our effort. I'm a new member of QRP ARCI and don't have this issue.

As it's unethical to ask for a photocopy of this issue, I'm hoping someone has an extra or unneeded copy that I could buy. If I can't find just the April issue, I'll need to consider buying the whole year from Doug. Thus, if you can help me, contact me soon, as I'll need to order soon from Doug if I decide I need to.

Tnx, es 73,

Eric.

--

W. Eric McFadden WD8RIF
wmcfadden@ohiou.edu

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Wed May 31 11:26:59 1995
Message-Id: <Pine.3.89.9505310603.A543573070-01000000@utkvx.utk.edu>
From: cebik@UTKVX.UTCC.UTK.EDU
Subject: RE: ZL Special
Date: Wed, 31 May 1995 07:26:59 EDT

I have seen several references to ZL Special formulas and thought I would try to briefly summarize my modeling studies on the antenna.

1. Please do not use any Yagi theory on this antenna. The antenna is a 2-element phased array. The length of feedline between element directly drives the rear element at a current phase difference that provides a broad forward lobe and--at a certain precise frequency--a deep null off the rear. Of course, the antenna element fields interact, and that makes the Z_0 and length of the phasing line a rather precise matter.
2. The way the phasing line works (understanding that excess brevity means this is incomplete) is to provide the reversed rear element with current phased -45 degrees relative to the front element in just such a magnitude that the voltage at the rear element is transformed along the line to equal the voltage at the front element and provides the correct field intensity (a function of current) for far field pattern formation of the desired sort. Element lengths, element separation, phase line Z_0 , and phase line length all affect the variables that go into this mix.
3. Most published designs in ham magazines and books after George Prichard, ZL3MH, did the original articles in 1949-50, have made wrong assumptions about the antenna. Note that impedance transformation is a derivative factor, not the basic factor. A QST design using twinlead taped to bamboo was designed for low SWR: it achieves that goal, but performs very poorly as a directional antenna.
4. There are two designs that pass muster with commonly available materials. One is a version by ZL3MH using linear (not folded) dipoles and 75-ohm twinlead. Another is the W7EL Field Day Special, a version using twinlead (300-ohm) throughout. It is the most practical version (See QST, June, 1984, pp. 21-24.) Modeling these antennas (and scaled versions) is essential to determine the correct dimensions (to ensure--for example--that you do not require element separation that is longer than the phase line that will correctly transform the current). This is possible with W7EL's EZNEC, a version of NEC-2 which inherently has the provision for modeling transmission lines (with limits), or with W6STI's NEC-Wires, Paragon's NEC-OPT, and other programs.
5. 300-ohm twinlead is insulated and therefore has a velocity factor of about 0.8 as transmission line and somewhere in the .96-.97 range as insulated antenna element wire. In pruning antenna elements to precise size for a deep null, there is no substitute for a signal source off the

rear at many wavelengths distance. However, the W7EL dimensions for the FDSP will provide 15 to 18 dB f-b ratio. (As an example of how ZL Sp fundamentals differ from Yagi fundamentals, obtaining the deep null while leaving the prescribed element separation and phase line length constant requires that rear element be slightly shorter than the forward element.)

6. Initial reports of gain and f-b were exaggerated as a result of the fact that in the early 1950s, Yagi construction was as much witchcraft as math and models. The gain of a ZL Sp of any version cannot exceed that of a comparably sized 2-element Yagi--about 6 dBi in free space. The rule of element numbers is this: $2=2=2$. . ., except for poor designs in which $2<2$. Front to back can reach >40 dB over a very narrow frequency range. However, home construction with minimal test equipment is unlikely to achieve more than 20 dB.

7. Summary: if you are in a hurry to put together a Field Day antenna, follow W7EL's design. Do not forget the series capacitors at the feedpoint to compensate for the remnant inductive reactance or the choke-style balun (W2DU or Radio Works C-2 or equivalent). If you want a slowly developed home antenna, consider the ZL3MH dipole and 72-ohm twinlead version as mechanically simpler. However, for forward gain, a 2-element Yagi easier to get working on target, and for f-b, a Moxon rectangle is competitive: neither require a phasing line. The ZL Special is a fascinating antenna to study. If anyone is that interested after field day, I can pass along an international reading list of English-language articles.

Caveat emptor! And good building.

-73-

LB, W4RNL